

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-33 (Canceled)

34. (New) A multi-layer covering for application to a building or other solid object and which supports an outer coating, the multi-layer covering including a first layer comprising:-

(a) a fabric layer defining an outer surface of the multi-layer covering, the fabric layer being porous, resilient and flexible and allowing penetration by the outer coating, in use, and being selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a strong woven fabric blanket;
- (ii) a non-woven fabric or batt;
- (iii) a mesh layer;

and wherein the multi-layer covering further comprises:

(b) a second layer being a backing layer fixed to the fabric layer, the backing layer being a web which strengthens and combines with layer (a) to provide strength to the same to allow the fabric layer to bridge cracks and gaps in the base object and wherein a series of through holes are present in the second layer and wherein, in use, when the multi-layer covering is applied to a building or other solid object, and an outer coating applied, the holes allow the outer coating to penetrate through the second layer to the building or other solid object.

(c) a bonding layer or a means bonding the second layer to the fabric layer;

(d) an adhesive layer disposed on the opposite side of the backing layer to the fabric layer;
and

(e) a sacrificial or removable peel-off layer protecting the adhesive layer.

35. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the holes in layer (b) comprise a grid of blister holes punched through that layer.

36. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 35 wherein the holes have a diameter of 0.5mm to 10mm and the holes are spaced apart by 10mm to 300mm.

37. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 36 wherein the holes have a diameter of 0.6mm to 5mm, and the holes are spaced apart by of 10mm to 50mm.

38. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein a grid of through holes is defined in at least layers (a) and (b) of the multi-layer covering.
39. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 38 wherein the holes have a diameter of 0.5mm to 10mm and the holes are spaced apart by of 10mm to 300mm.
40. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 39 wherein the holes have a diameter of 0.6mm to 5mm, and the holes are spaced apart by of 10mm to 50mm.
41. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein layer (a) is wider than layer (b) so that layer (a) overlaps layer (b) at opposite sides of layer (b).
42. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the flexible, porous, resilient strong woven fabric has a thickness from 2mm to 20mm, the fabric being made from fibres or strands and wherein either gaps between fibres in the fabric are defined in the range of 0.3mm to 3.0mm or holes having a diameter of 0.3mm to 3.0mm are defined in the fabric .
43. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 42 wherein layer (a) is a fabric which is from 2mm to 5mm thick.
44. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein layer (a) is a flexible mesh layer that defines a spacing between strands of the mesh of 3mm to 20mm
45. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein layer (a) is a non-woven fabric or batt having a thickness from 2mm to 20mm, the fabric being made from fibres or strands and wherein either gaps between fibres in the fabric are defined in the range of 0.3mm to 3.0mm or holes having a diameter of 0.3mm to 3.0mm are defined in the fabric.
46. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the fabric layer is made from a plastics material such as fibre glass or PET fibres.
47. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the backing layer is a metallic reflective foil.
48. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the backing layer includes a metallic reflective foil and building paper.

49. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the backing layer is a building paper.

50. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the backing layer includes a mesh layer, and the fabric layer is a strong woven fabric or a non-woven fabric or batt.

51. (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 50 wherein the backing layer further includes a metallic reflective foil.

52 (New) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the backing layer includes two metallic reflective foils sandwiching a sheet of building paper.

53. (New) A method of treating a wall, ceiling, roof, or floor by applying a multi-layer covering comprising:

(a) a fabric layer defining an outer surface of the multi-layer covering, the fabric layer being porous, resilient and flexible and allowing penetration by the outer coating, in use, and being selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a strong woven fabric blanket;
- (ii) a non-woven fabric or batt;
- (iii) a mesh layer;

and wherein the multi-layer covering further comprises:

(b) a second layer being a backing layer fixed to the fabric layer, the backing layer being a web which strengthens and combines with layer (a) to provide strength to the same to allow the fabric layer to bridge cracks and gaps in the base object and wherein a series of through holes are present in the second layer and wherein, in use, when the multi-layer covering is applied to a building or other solid object, and an outer coating applied, the holes allow the outer coating to penetrate through the second layer to the building or other solid object.

(c) a bonding layer or a means bonding the second layer to the fabric layer;

(d) an adhesive layer disposed on the opposite side of the backing layer to the fabric layer;

and

(e) a sacrificial or removable peel-off layer protecting the adhesive layer;

the method comprising the steps of:

removing the removable or sacrificial peel off layer from the multi-layer covering;

applying the multi-layer covering to the wall, ceiling, roof, or floor using the adhesive layer to retain the multi-layer covering in position; and

applying one or more coatings to the outer layer of the multi-layer covering.

54. (New) A method of treating a wall ceiling, roof, or floor as claimed in claim 53 wherein the step of applying one or more coatings comprises applying one or more layers of acrylic render or paint.
55. (New) A method as claimed in claim 53 wherein the multi-layer covering is applied to a wall and the coating is a render or paint applied with a brush, roller, or spray gun or the like.
56. (New) A method as claimed in claim 54 wherein the paint or render includes cement and/or sand particles and an acrylic polymer binder and wherein the sand and cement particles penetrate into the gaps between the fibres of the fabric or the holes in the backing layer as far as the face of the wall so that the covering is saturated with acrylic render or paint.
57. (New) A method as claimed in claim 53 wherein the covering is applied to a roof and the coating is an adhesive or sealant.
58. (New) A method as claimed in claim 53 wherein the covering is applied to a floor and the coating is tiling cement, grout, or adhesive.